



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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May 2, 1991

Pablo Rubinstein, M.D.  
Director, Fred H. Allen  
Laboratory of Immunogenetics  
The Lindsley F. Kimball Research Institute  
of The New York Blood Center  
310 East 67 Street  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Rubinstein: ↓

Your letter of April 4, to Dr. Joshua Lederberg regarding interest in studies of the association of HLA compatibility and the risk of transplacental infection was forwarded to Dr. Fauci for comments on the access to appropriate cohorts. Dr. Fauci has asked that I look into our studies involving cohorts of HIV infected mothers and their children and respond to you.

For your information, the NIAID Division of AIDS is supporting several studies on the association of immunogenetic markers with HIV infection and HIV disease. Our Multi-Center AIDS Cohort Study (MACS) group has identified one HLA marker that is strongly associated with rapid HIV disease progression. In collaboration with the NCI, the MACS investigators are also looking at the association of AIDS with other genetic markers.

We are also planning to look at the HLA types associated with perinatal transmission in our Women and Infants Transmission Study (WITS). The WITS is a consortium of investigators similar to the MACS but focused on perinatal transmission. Dr. Mary Claire King of the University of California, Berkeley, is a collaborator and consultant on these studies. In addition, Drs. Stephen O'Brien and Dean Mann of the NCI's Laboratory of Viral Carcinogenesis are developing similar studies with the WITS cohorts.

I am not certain if our program staff and the WITS investigators can accommodate any additional collaborations considering the commitments to the above mentioned studies. If you would like to pursue such a collaboration, however, you could contact Dr. Rodney Hoff in the NIAID Division of AIDS who is responsible for the WITS studies.

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Dr. Hoff can be reached at the following address and telephone number:

Dr. Rodney Hoff  
Chief, Women and Children's Section  
Epidemiology Branch, Division of AIDS, NIAID  
Control Data Building, Room 240P  
Bethesda, MD 20892  
Phone: (301) 496-6177

Best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James C. Hill".

James C. Hill, Ph.D.  
Deputy Director,  
National Institute of Allergy  
and Infectious Diseases

cc: Dr. Anthony S. Fauci  
Dr. Rodney Hoff  
Dr. Joshua Lederberg